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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/835,439	04/17/2001	Pierre Glaesener	13201.00042	7938
27160	7590	10/31/2005	EXAMINER	
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 525 WEST MONROE STREET CHICAGO, IL 60661-3693			JOYCE, WILLIAM C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3682	
DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/835,439	GLAESNER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	William C. Joyce	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 and 27-35 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-6 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,7-11 and 27-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed August 15, 2005 for the above identified patent application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 7, 27, 28, 30, 31, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Faint et al. (US Patent 4,759,452).

Faint et al. discloses a flexible shoe assembly comprising: a body (52) for supporting a load, a force redirector, said body having an upper wearing surface configured to slideably engage a linearly moving complimentary surface of a supported member, and a cylindrical mounting lower surface configured to engage a supporting member (54) and providing adjustment of said shoe assembly during installation, said force redirector being defined by the cylindrical mounting surface and disposed in said body in a plane below said upper surface so as to redirect said force from a leading edge and a trailing edge of said upper surface to a central area in said body.

The bearing arrangement is considered "flexible" because it adapts or changes positions so as to be properly aligned with the linearly moving complementary surface.

The recitation of "molding system" found in the preamble has been given little patentable weight. It is noted applicant elected (filed June 3, 2004) to prosecute the subcombination of a flexible shoe assembly and not the combination of the molding machine and the shoe assembly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 7-11 and 27-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schlereth (US Patent 5,176,454) in view of Osawa (US Patent 4,941,758).

Schlereth discloses a flexible shoe assembly comprising: a body (16) for supporting a load, a force redirector (34), said body being integrally connected to a linear bearing arrangement, the linear bearing arrangement is formed with a bearing surface configured to slideably engage a linearly moving complimentary surface of a supported member, and a support surface (20) configured to engage a supporting member and providing adjustment of said shoe assembly during installation, said force redirector disposed in said body in a plane above said linear bearing arrangement so as to redirect said force from a leading edge and a trailing edge of said bearing arrangement to a central area thereof.

With respect to the limitations defining the orientation of the device, such as "upper wear surface" and "lower mounting surface," it is understood the device of Schlereth can be positioned in any orientation, including an inverted orientation which meets the claim limitations.

Schlereth does not clearly teach the linear bearing arrangement having a "wear surface" but teaches a plurality of balls for reducing friction between the relatively moving components. It was well known in the art to configure a linear bearing device with the claimed wear surface. For example, the prior art to Osawa teaches a linear bearing arrangement having a wear surface (11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the linear bearing of Schlereth with a linear bearing having a wear surface, as taught by Osawa, motivation being to reduce the number of components of the device thereby reducing the cost and assembly time of the device.

With respect to claims 10 and 11, the device of Schlereth inherently includes stops for limiting the pivoting movement of the device.

With respect to claim 27, Schlereth illustrates a through hole (22) extending lengthwise through the support. In the event applicant amends the claims to more clearly define the lengthwise direction as illustrated in the instant application, the claim would be rejected because it would have been obvious to one in the art to position the attachment holes in any direction depending on the particular configuration of the supporting structure.

With respect to claim 29, Schlereth does not disclose the support surface as semi-cylindrical. It would have been obvious to one in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the flat support surface of Schlereth with a semi-cylindrical surface, motivation being to adapt the device for a particular application.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note the bearing device of Sterner ('404), Mark et al. ('610), Ito et al. ('092).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Joyce whose telephone number is (571) 272-7107. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


William C. Joyce 10/27/05